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4. The determination of the principal geological features of the Republic.

Much of the zoölogical and botanical material obtained by the expedition is new either to science or to the Academy's collection, and thus makes most valuable additions to the museum. The elaboration of this material has been confided to special investigators, whose reports (some of them already either printed or in preparation) will appear in the Proceedings of the Academy, and in a final publication dealing with the explorations generally.

The following papers have already been issued by the Academy:

"Birds collected in Yucatan and Southern Mexico." By Witmer Stone.

"Barometric Observations among the High Volcanoes of Mexico, with a Consideration of the Culminating Point of the North American Continent." By Angelo Heilprin.

"The Corals and Coral Reefs of the Western Waters of the Gulf of Mexico." By Angelo Heilprin.

"Echinoderms from the Northern Coast of Yucatan and the Harbor of Vera Cruz." By J. E. Ives.

"The Geology and Paleontology of the Cretaceous Deposits of Mexico." By Angelo Heilprin.

"Notes on a Collection of Shells from Southern Mexico." By Frank C. Baker.

Other papers now in course of preparation will appear during the early part of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGELO HEILPRIN.

## REPORT OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

During the year 1890 this Section has held fifteen meetings.

Dr. Samuel G. Dixon has been elected a member.

Several papers of interest have been read at the joint sessions with the Academy, and interesting verbal communications have been made by Messrs. Sharp, Ryder, Rex, Wingate, Sudduth and others.

The officers elected to serve for the ensuing year are as follows:—

<i>Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Dr. Benjamin Sharp.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	John C. Wilson.
<i>Recorder,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Harold Wingate.

*Treasurer*, . . . . . Charles P. Perot.  
*Conservator*, . . . . . Dr. George A. Rex.  
*Corresponding Secretary*, . . . . Dr. Charles Schäffer.

Very respectfully submitted,

HAROLD WINGATE,

*Recorder.*

### REPORT OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SECTION.

Since the last annual meeting of the Section specimens have been received from forty-three sources, to the number of 1698 trays, a detailed list of which will be found in the record of additions to the museum.

The most important collection received is that made by the expedition from the Academy to Yucatan and Mexico, under the charge of Professor Angelo Heilprin. Marine shells were collected at Progreso, Silam, Campeche, and Vera Cruz—some 325 trays in all. Land shells were collected in Yucatan and Mexico at many localities, to the number of 406 trays, including many species not before in the collection, and a few probably new. A catalogue of the marine forms has been prepared by Mr. Frank C. Baker, my former assistant, for publication in the Proceedings of the Academy. It will be found of great value to students of the West Indian fauna, as many species are for the first time recorded from the mainland. The condition of many of the specimens is not very good, but this does not materially lessen their value to the zoögeographer. The land and fresh-water forms are being studied by the Conservator of the Section, and a catalogue of them will be offered for publication later.

A collection of 203 trays of land and fresh-water shells from California, Idaho and Washington, purchased by the Conchological Section from Henry Hemphill, increases our suites of western species, and adds to the museum many new species and varieties, a part of which have been described by the writer and others.

A collection of shells, including many alcoholic specimens made by Dr. Benjamin Sharp in the Caribbean Islands, adds 94 trays to our suites of West Indian marine shells, and 25 trays of land species. Dr. Sharp has also presented 30 bottles of excellently hardened and preserved alcoholic material collected by him at Naples and Villa Franca.